

Some Remarks on Nonlinear Second-Order Differential Equations with Periodic Boundary Conditions

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Here we propose a simple integral equation method for solution of nonlinear periodic boundary value problems. Our integral equation solves an auxiliary periodic boundary value problem with a control variable. The method is constructive; some numerical experiments are presented. © 1989 Academic Press, Inc.

1. INTRODUCTION

The nonlinear periodic boundary value problem

$$\begin{aligned} u''(t) &= f(t, u(t), u'(t)), & a < t < b, \\ u(a) &= u(b), & u'(a) &= u'(b) \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

has been studied extensively. The main techniques have been the method of upper and lower solutions, the use of Leray–Schauder topological degree, the variational approach, and monotone iterations [3, 5, 2, 8, 4]. Usually the function f is assumed to satisfy some additional conditions such as periodicity, monotonicity, Nagumo conditions, etc. Instead of these assumptions we use a Lipschitz condition on f and consider the more general problem

$$\begin{aligned} u''(t) &= f(t, \mathcal{A}u(t), \mathcal{B}u'(t)), & a < t < b, \\ u(a) &= u(b), & u'(a) &= u'(b), \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

where $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}: L_2(a, b) \rightarrow L_2(a, b)$ are Lipschitz continuous. Furthermore we assume that the mapping $t \rightarrow f(t, v(t), w(t))$ is square integrable for any $v, w \in L_2(a, b)$. Here we apply our method used for Neumann-type problems in [7] and study the parametrized problem

$$\begin{aligned}
u''(t) + \delta &= f(t, \mathcal{A}u(t), \mathcal{B}u'(t)) \\
u(a) &= u(b), \quad u'(a) = u'(b) \\
Ju &= \lambda,
\end{aligned} \tag{1.3}$$

where λ is a real number, J is the mean value operator

$$Ju = \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b u(t) dt,$$

and

$$\delta = Jf(\cdot, \mathcal{A}u(\cdot), \mathcal{B}u'(\cdot)). \tag{1.4}$$

We transform the problem (1.3) into an equivalent integral equation

$$u(t) = \lambda + \int_a^b k(t, s) f(s, \mathcal{A}u(s), \mathcal{B}u'(s)) ds \tag{1.5}$$

and show the unique solvability of (1.5) by means of contraction mapping principle. Since every solution of (1.2) is obtained from (1.3) if and only if δ vanishes, the problem is to find the zeros of the mapping $\lambda \rightarrow \delta(\lambda)$. Under some additional conditions on f , similar to [6] we are able to show existence of a zero of $\delta(\lambda)$. Also we give examples, where the problem is solved numerically with Picard iterations.

The use of operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} in (1.2) allows us to discuss, e.g., third-order problems.

2. MAIN RESULTS

We use the Sobolev spaces

$$H^1(a, b) = \{u \in L_2(a, b) \mid u' \in L_2(a, b)\}$$

and

$$H^2(a, b) = \{u \in H^1(a, b) \mid u'' \in L_2(a, b)\}.$$

By a solution of the parametrized problem (1.3) we mean any function $u \in H^2(a, b)$ satisfying (1.3) for given $\lambda \in \mathbf{R}$.

Using the integral representation

$$\begin{aligned}
u(t) &= \frac{1}{2} \int_a^b |t-s| u''(s) ds + \frac{1}{2} [u(a) + u(b)] \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{2} [(a-t)u'(a) + (b-t)u'(b)], \quad a \leq t \leq b,
\end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

for $u \in H^2(a, b)$ we can derive an equivalent integral equation formulation of problem (1.3).

LEMMA 2.1. *A function $u \in H^1(a, b)$ is a solution of problem (1.3) if and only if u is a solution of the integral equation*

$$u(t) = \lambda + \int_a^b k(t, s) f(s, \mathcal{A}u(s), \mathcal{B}u'(s)) ds, \quad a \leq t \leq b, \quad (2.2)$$

where

$$k(t, s) = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ |t - s| - \frac{1}{b - a} (t - s)^2 - \frac{b - a}{6} \right\}, \quad (t, s) \in [a, b] \times [a, b]. \quad (2.3)$$

Proof. The kernel $k(t, s)$ is so chosen that the integral operator

$$\mathcal{K}u(t) = \int_a^b k(t, s) f(s, \mathcal{A}u(s), \mathcal{B}u'(s)) ds \quad (2.4)$$

satisfies the periodic boundary conditions

$$\mathcal{K}u(a) = \mathcal{K}u(b), \quad (\mathcal{K}u)'(a) = (\mathcal{K}u)'(b)$$

and has zero mean value for any $u \in H^1(a, b)$. Otherwise the argumentation follows the proof of Lemma 2.2 in [7] and is therefore omitted here. ■

In order to prove the unique solvability of the problem (1.3) we assume that f , \mathcal{A} , and \mathcal{B} satisfy the Lipschitz conditions

$$|f(t, x, y) - f(t, \bar{x}, \bar{y})| \leq K |x - \bar{x}| + L |y - \bar{y}|, \quad (2.5)$$

$a \leq t \leq b$, $x, \bar{x}, y, \bar{y} \in \mathbf{R}$,

$$\|\mathcal{A}u - \mathcal{A}\bar{u}\| \leq A_0 \|u - \bar{u}\|, \quad u, \bar{u} \in L_2(a, b), \quad (2.6)$$

and

$$\|\mathcal{B}u - \mathcal{B}\bar{u}\| \leq B_0 \|u - \bar{u}\|, \quad u, \bar{u} \in L_2(a, b). \quad (2.7)$$

THEOREM 2.1. *If*

$$\frac{1}{4\pi^2} (b - a)^2 K^2 A_0^2 + L^2 B_0^2 < 2\pi^2 / (b - a)^2, \quad (2.8)$$

then problem (1.3) has a unique solution for each $\lambda \in \mathbf{R}$.

Proof. The integral operator \mathcal{K} given by (2.4) defines an operator from $H^1(a, b)$ into itself. Thus it suffices to show that \mathcal{K} is a contraction in $H^1(a, b)$. Define the linear operators $\mathcal{K}_0, \mathcal{K}_1: L_2(a, b) \rightarrow L_2(a, b)$ by

$$\mathcal{K}_0 u(t) = \int_a^b k(t, s) u(s) ds$$

and

$$\mathcal{K}_1 u(t) = \int_a^b k_t(t, s) u(s) ds.$$

These operators are bounded with operator norms

$$\|\mathcal{K}_0\| = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} (b-a)^2 \quad (2.9)$$

and

$$\|\mathcal{K}_1\| = \frac{1}{2\pi} (b-a). \quad (2.10)$$

Equations (2.9), (2.10) follow by calculating the smallest, in absolute value, eigenvalues of the compact selfadjoint operators \mathcal{K}_0 and $i\mathcal{K}_1$ in $L_2(a, b)$.

Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{K}u - \mathcal{K}\bar{u}\|^2 &\leq \|\mathcal{K}_0\|^2 \|f(\cdot, \mathcal{A}u(\cdot), \mathcal{B}u'(\cdot)) - f(\cdot, \mathcal{A}\bar{u}(\cdot), \mathcal{B}\bar{u}'(\cdot))\|^2 \\ &\leq 2 \|\mathcal{K}_0\|^2 (K^2 \|\mathcal{A}u - \mathcal{A}\bar{u}\|^2 + L^2 \|\mathcal{B}u' - \mathcal{B}\bar{u}'\|^2) \\ &\leq 2 \|\mathcal{K}_0\|^2 (K^2 A_0^2 \|u - \bar{u}\|^2 + L^2 B_0^2 \|u' - \bar{u}'\|^2). \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

Similarly, since $(\mathcal{K}_0 u)'(t) = (\mathcal{K}_1 u)(t)$, we have

$$\|(\mathcal{K}u)' - (\mathcal{K}\bar{u})'\|^2 \leq 2 \|\mathcal{K}_1\|^2 (K^2 A_0^2 \|u - \bar{u}\|^2 + L^2 B_0^2 \|u' - \bar{u}'\|^2). \quad (2.12)$$

By choosing in $H^1(a, b)$ the norm

$$\|u\|_e = (K^2 A_0^2 \|u\|^2 + L^2 B_0^2 \|u'\|^2)^{1/2}$$

we obtain from (2.11)–(2.12)

$$\|(\mathcal{K}u) - (\mathcal{K}\bar{u})\|_e \leq \sqrt{2} (\|\mathcal{K}_0\|^2 \|K^2 A_0^2 + \|\mathcal{K}_1\|^2 L^2 B_0^2\|^{1/2} \|u - \bar{u}\|_e). \quad (2.13)$$

From (2.8), (2.9), (2.10), and (2.13) it follows that \mathcal{K} is a contraction in $H^1(a, b)$. ■

If the condition (2.8) is valid, then Eq. (1.4),

$$\delta(\lambda) = Jf(\cdot, \mathcal{A}u_\lambda(\cdot), \mathcal{B}u'_\lambda(\cdot)),$$

u_λ being the unique solution of (1.3), defines a real function δ . The original problem (1.2) is solvable if and only if δ has a zero. For the function $\lambda \rightarrow (\delta(\lambda), u_\lambda)$ we have

COROLLARY 2.1. *Let (2.8) be valid. Then the mapping $\lambda \rightarrow (\delta(\lambda), u_\lambda): \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R} \times H^2(a, b)$ is Lipschitz continuous. Accordingly, problem (1.2) has a solution if $\delta(\lambda_1)\delta(\lambda_2) \leq 0$ for some $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbf{R}$.*

Proof. For $\lambda, \tilde{\lambda} \in \mathbf{R}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\delta(\lambda) - \delta(\tilde{\lambda})| &\leq \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b |f(s, \mathcal{A}u_\lambda(s), \mathcal{B}u'_\lambda(s)) - f(s, \mathcal{A}u_{\tilde{\lambda}}(s), \mathcal{B}u'_{\tilde{\lambda}}(s))| ds \\ &\leq \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b (K |\mathcal{A}u_\lambda(s) - \mathcal{A}u_{\tilde{\lambda}}(s)| + L |\mathcal{B}u'_\lambda(s) - \mathcal{B}u'_{\tilde{\lambda}}(s)|) ds \\ &\leq \frac{1}{b-a} \sqrt{b-a} (KA_0 \|u_\lambda - u_{\tilde{\lambda}}\| + LB_0 \|u'_\lambda - u'_{\tilde{\lambda}}\|) \\ &\leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{b-a}} \|u_\lambda - u_{\tilde{\lambda}}\|_e \end{aligned}$$

and by (2.13)

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_\lambda - u_{\tilde{\lambda}}\|_e &\leq \|\lambda - \tilde{\lambda}\|_e + \|\mathcal{K}u_\lambda - \mathcal{K}u_{\tilde{\lambda}}\|_e \\ &\leq KA_0 \sqrt{b-a} |\lambda - \tilde{\lambda}| + c \|u_\lambda - u_{\tilde{\lambda}}\|_e, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$c = \sqrt{2} (\|\mathcal{K}_0\|^2 K^2 A_0^2 + \|\mathcal{K}_1\|^2 L^2 B_0^2)^{1/2} < 1.$$

Hence

$$\|u_\lambda - u_{\tilde{\lambda}}\|_e \leq \frac{KA_0 \sqrt{b-a}}{1-c} |\lambda - \tilde{\lambda}| \quad (2.14)$$

and

$$|\delta(\lambda) - \delta(\tilde{\lambda})| \leq \frac{\sqrt{2} KA_0}{1-c} |\lambda - \tilde{\lambda}|. \quad (2.15)$$

Finally, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_\lambda'' - u_{\bar{\lambda}}''\| &\leq \|\delta(\lambda) - \delta(\bar{\lambda})\| \\ &\quad + \|f(\cdot, \mathcal{A}u_\lambda(\cdot), \mathcal{B}u_\lambda'(\cdot)) - f(\cdot, \mathcal{A}u_{\bar{\lambda}}(\cdot), \mathcal{B}u_{\bar{\lambda}}'(\cdot))\| \\ &\leq \sqrt{b-a} |\lambda - \bar{\lambda}| + \sqrt{2} \|u_\lambda - u_{\bar{\lambda}}\|_e. \end{aligned} \quad (2.16)$$

The assertions follow by (2.14)–(2.16). ■

As an example we consider the case where $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{B} = I$ and the function f satisfies the following conditions. For related assumptions see, e.g., [4, 6].

(i) f is uniformly essentially bounded in t such that

$$|f(t, x, y)| \leq M, \quad x, y \in \mathbf{R}, \quad \text{a.e. } t \in [a, b],$$

(ii) the limits

$$f(t, \pm \infty, y_0) = \lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow \pm \infty \\ y \rightarrow y_0}} f(t, x, y)$$

exist for a.e. $t \in [a, b]$ and

(iii) $\int_a^b f(t, \infty, w(t)) dt < 0$, $\int_a^b f(t, -\infty, w(t)) dt > 0$ for all continuous functions w such that $|w(t)| \leq N$, $a \leq t \leq b$, where

$$N = M \max_{a \leq t \leq b} \int_a^b |k_t(t, s)| ds.$$

COROLLARY 2.2. *Assume that f satisfies the assumption of Theorem 2.1 and conditions (i)–(iii) above. Then problem (1.2) has a solution.*

Proof. By Corollary 2.1 it suffices to show that $\delta(\lambda_1)\delta(\lambda_2) \leq 0$ for some λ_1, λ_2 . From

$$u_\lambda(t) = \lambda + \int_a^b k(t, s) f(s, u_\lambda(s), u_\lambda'(s)) ds$$

and

$$u_\lambda'(t) = \int_a^b k_t(t, s) f(s, u_\lambda(s), u_\lambda'(s)) ds$$

it follows that

$$u_\lambda(t) \rightarrow \pm \infty, \quad \lambda \rightarrow \pm \infty$$

and

$$|u_\lambda'(t)| \leq N, \quad (t, \lambda) \in [a, b] \times \mathbf{R}.$$

Furthermore

$$u''_{\lambda}(t) = f(t, u_{\lambda}(t), u'_{\lambda}(t)) - Jf(\cdot, u_{\lambda}(\cdot), u'_{\lambda}(\cdot))$$

yields

$$\|u''_{\lambda}\| \leq 2\sqrt{b-a} M.$$

Since the embedding $H^1(a, b) \subset L_2(a, b)$ is compact, we can choose an in $L_2(a, b)$ convergent sequence $u'_{\lambda_k}, \lambda_k \rightarrow \infty$, such that $u'_{\lambda_k}(t) \rightarrow w(t)$ a.e. By (ii) and by the Lebesgue convergence theorem we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(\lambda_k) &= \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(t, u_{\lambda_k}(t), u'_{\lambda_k}(t)) dt \\ &\rightarrow \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(t, \infty, w(t)) dt < 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.17)$$

Similarly we find $\lambda_k \rightarrow -\infty$ with

$$\delta(\lambda_k) \rightarrow \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(t, -\infty, \bar{w}(t)) dt > 0. \quad (2.18)$$

Results (2.17), (2.18) imply the assertion. ■

In case $f(t, x, y)$ is periodic in x we get

COROLLARY 2.3. *Let $\mathcal{A}u = \mathcal{B}u = u$ and let the assumptions of Theorem 2.1 be valid. If $f(t, x, y)$ is p -periodic in x for all $t \in [a, b]$, $y \in \mathbf{R}$, then $\delta(\lambda)$ is p -periodic and hence problem (1.2) has either infinitely many solutions or no solutions.*

For the proof cf. [7, Corollary 2.3].

3. SOME EXAMPLES AND REMARKS

The appearance of the operators \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} allows us to discuss some third-order differential equations.

EXAMPLE 3.1. We consider the third-order problem

$$\begin{aligned} w'''(t) &= f(t, w, w''), & a < t < b \\ w(a) &= w_a \\ w'(a) &= w'(b) \\ w''(a) &= w''(b). \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

Introducing $u(t) = w'(t)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} u''(t) &= f(t, \mathcal{A}u(\cdot), \mathcal{B}u'(\cdot)), & a < t < b \\ u(a) &= u(b) \\ u'(a) &= u'(b), \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}u(t) &= w_a + \int_a^t u(s) ds, \\ \mathcal{B}u'(t) &= u'(t). \end{aligned}$$

For the operator \mathcal{A} we may choose

$$A_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(b-a).$$

EXAMPLE 3.2. This is an example of the case where the assumptions of Corollary 2.2 are valid, but where f is not periodic and not of the form $f = p(t) - g(x, y)$ as in [4]. Let

$$f(t, x, y) = p(t) - e^{-|x|} \sin y - f(x)[h(t) + |\sin y|], \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1 \quad x, y \in \mathbf{R},$$

where

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & |x| \leq 1 \\ \operatorname{sgn} x, & |x| > 1, \end{cases}$$

p and h are square integrable and essentially bounded on $[0, 1]$, h is non-negative,

$$\left| \int_0^1 p(t) dt \right| < \int_0^1 h(t) dt,$$

and

$$\operatorname{ess\,sup} h(t) < 2\pi \sqrt{2\pi^2 - 4} - 2.$$

Now conditions (i)–(iii) and inequality (2.8) are satisfied.

Remark 3.1. Condition (2.8) is not optimal in all cases. For example, if f on the right-hand side of (1.2) is independent of u' , then we have $L = 0$ and (2.8) can be replaced by the optimal condition $KA_0 < 4\pi^2/(b-a)^2$.

Remark 3.2. Instead of (2.3) one can consider the parametrized problem

$$\begin{aligned} u''(t) &= f(t, \mathcal{A}u(\cdot), \mathcal{B}u'(\cdot)) \\ u(a) &= u(b) = \lambda \in \mathbf{R} \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

with the control

$$\delta(\lambda) = Jf(\cdot, \mathcal{A}u(\cdot), \mathcal{B}u'(\cdot)) = u'_\lambda(b) - u'_\lambda(a) \quad (3.4)$$

(cf. [1]). This approach leads to the integral equation

$$u(t) = \lambda + \int_a^b g(t, s) f(s, \mathcal{A}u(s), \mathcal{B}u'(s)) ds, \quad (3.5)$$

where $g(t, s)$ is the Green function of the Dirichlet problem. Now the linear integral operator $G_0: L_2(a, b) \rightarrow L_2(a, b)$ given by this kernel has the norm

$$\|G_0\| = \frac{1}{\pi^2} (b-a)^2. \quad (3.6)$$

Thus the use of (1.3) with the integral operator \mathcal{K}_0 leads to a better constraint (2.8).

Remark 3.3. The above method can be used also in some cases where the function f is not globally Lipschitzian. For example, if it is known that the solution is in some ball, it suffices that f is locally Lipschitzian. This is illustrated in the following example.

EXAMPLE 3.3. We consider periodic solutions to the forced Duffing equation

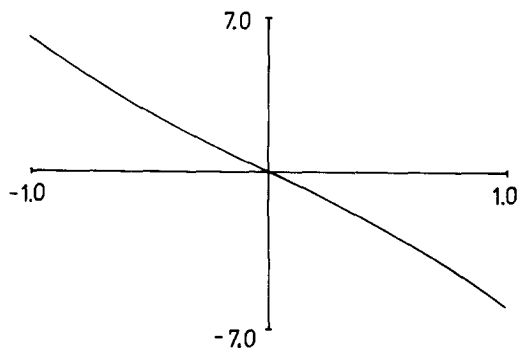
$$u''(t) + \alpha u(t) + \beta u^3(t) = \kappa \cos 2\pi t, \quad 0 < t < 1, \quad (3.7)$$

in which α, β, κ are real constants and $\alpha > 0$. If the solution u is bounded by $|u(t)| \leq M, 0 \leq t \leq 1$, then u satisfies the equation

$$u''(t) = f(t, u(t)), \quad 0 < t < 1, \quad (3.8)$$

where

$$f(t, x) = \begin{cases} \kappa \cos 2\pi t - \alpha x - \beta x^3, & |x| \leq M, \\ \kappa \cos 2\pi t + \alpha M + \beta M^3, & x < -M, \\ \kappa \cos 2\pi t - \alpha M - \beta M^3, & x > M. \end{cases}$$

FIG. 1. Behavior of $\delta(\lambda)$ on the interval $[-1, 1]$.

The function f is Lipschitz continuous with the Lipschitz constant $K = \alpha + 3M^2 |\beta|$. By Remark 3.1 we can apply our results to Eq. (3.8) if

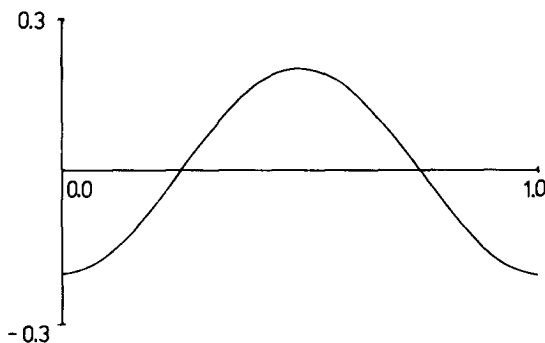
$$\alpha + 3M^2 |\beta| < 4\pi^2. \quad (3.9)$$

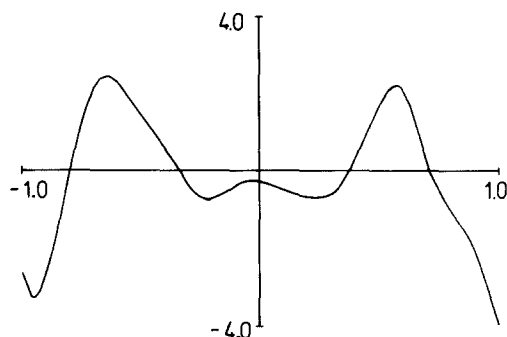
For numerical calculations we have chosen $\alpha = 5$, $\beta = 1$, $\kappa = 7$, $M = 2$. Figure 1 shows the behavior of $\delta(\lambda)$ on the interval $[-1, 1]$.

We find the zero of $\delta(\lambda)$ at $\lambda_0 \cong 0$. The corresponding approximate solution u_0 is shown in Fig. 2.

EXAMPLE 3.4. Now we consider a slight modification of the Duffing-type equation, viz.,

$$u''(t) + e^{-|u'(t)|} u(t) + 5u(t) \sin 8u(t) = 10t \cos 2\pi t, \quad 0 < t < 1. \quad (3.10)$$

FIG. 2. Function u_0 .

FIG. 3. Behavior of $\delta(\lambda)$ on the interval $[-1, 1]$.

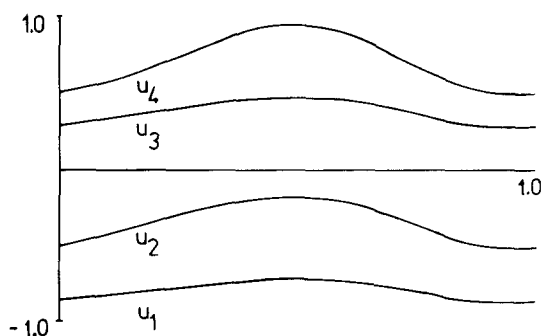
Observe that in this example $f(t, x, y)$ is not periodic in t . We found numerically the zeros $\lambda_1 \simeq -0.79484$, $\lambda_2 \simeq -0.33870$, $\lambda_3 \simeq 0.38225$, and $\lambda_4 \simeq 0.71339$ of $\delta(\lambda)$ (see Fig. 3). The graphs of the corresponding periodic solutions u_1 , u_2 , u_3 , and u_4 of (3.10) are given in Fig. 4.

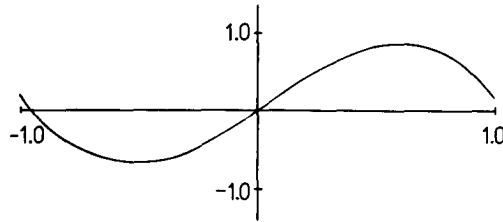
EXAMPLE 3.5. We point out that our results apply also in the case where the function $f(t, u, u')$ is not continuous. As an example consider the equation

$$u''(t) = 6u(t) + \sin[u'(t)] + h(t), \quad -1 < t < 1, \quad (3.11)$$

where

$$h(t) = \begin{cases} 8t^3 - 6t^2 - 21t + 2 - \sin(-4t^2 + 2t + \frac{13}{6}), & -1 \leq t < 0, \\ 12t^3 - 25t - \sin(-6t^2 + \frac{13}{6}), & 0 < t \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

FIG. 4. Functions u_1 , u_2 , u_3 , and u_4 .

FIG. 5. Behavior of the solution u_0 .

We find a zero $\lambda_0 \cong 0.0862$. The corresponding solution u_0 is shown in Fig. 5. In all calculations above we have used the composite trapezoidal rule with sixty subintervals for numerical integration. For a zero λ_0 of $\delta(\lambda)$ we have the accuracy $|\delta(\lambda_0)| \leq 10^{-4}$.

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